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Sustainable development: implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development

Preparations for the International Year of Forests, 2011

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present update report has been prepared to provide additional information received since submission of the previous report on the state of preparations for the International Year of Forests, 2011 to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session (A/64/274). The current report provides updated information on initiatives and activities being organized to celebrate the Year. The concluding section offers recommendations on the next steps. The annexes to the report include the International Year of Forests, 2011 logo as well the logo use guidelines and waiver of liability form.

* A/65/150.

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I. Introduction

1. On 20 December 2006, the General Assembly, in its resolution 61/193, declared 2011 the International Year of Forests and invited Governments, the United Nations system, relevant non-governmental organizations, the private sector and other actors to make concerted efforts to raise awareness at all levels to strengthen the sustainable management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests for the benefit of current and future generations.

2. In resolution 61/193, the General Assembly also requested the secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat to serve as the focal point for the implementation of the Year, in collaboration with Governments, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and international, regional and subregional organizations and processes as well as relevant major groups. It also encouraged voluntary partnerships among Member States, international organizations and major groups to facilitate and promote activities related to the Year at the local and national levels, including by creating national committees or designating focal points in their respective countries.

3. The present report provides information on the preparations at the national, regional and international levels for the observance of the Year, taking into account input received in response to notes verbales dated 10 July 2009 and 9 April 2010. A number of Member States and organizations have indicated their intention to promote activities to celebrate the International Year of Forests, 2011; however, at the time of drafting of this report, specific details for those activities were still under development.

II. Key activities

4. The International Year of Forests, 2011 offers a unique opportunity to raise public awareness of the challenges facing many of the world's forests and the people who depend on them. Great success stories and valuable lessons on how to promote sustainable forest management already exist. The Year provides a means of bringing those voices together and building momentum towards greater public participation in forest activities around the world. To help facilitate achievement of the objectives of the Year, the secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests is undertaking the following communication activities:

(a) The International Year of Forests, 2011 logo: The official logo for the International Year has been developed in collaboration with the Graphics Design Unit of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat. The logo received approval by the United Nations Publications Board on 9 July 2010 and was launched in all official United Nations languages on 19 July 2010. The secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests announced the logo to Member States, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and regional and subregional entities as well as major groups. Annex I to this report contains the logo in all official United Nations languages, annex II sets forth the logo use guidelines, and annex III contains the waiver of liability form.

(i) The International Year of Forests, 2011 logo is designed to convey the theme of "Forests for People" celebrating the central role of people in the sustainable management, conservation and sustainable development of our

world's forests. The iconographic elements in the design depict some of the multiple values of forests and the need for a 360-degree perspective: forests provide shelter to people and habitat to biodiversity; are a source of food, medicine and clean water; and play a vital role in maintaining a stable global climate and environment. All of these elements taken together reinforce the message that forests are vital to the survival and well-being of people everywhere, all 7 billion of us.

(ii) The International Year of Forests, 2011 logo is available in the six official United Nations languages: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. Member States are encouraged to translate the text "International Year of Forests, 2011" into local languages and send the translated text only in EPS (graphic) file format to the United Nations Forum on Forests secretariat so that the logo can be made available in local languages.

(b) The International Year of Forests, 2011 website: The website is being developed by the secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests to provide an online platform for all information materials related to the celebration of the Year. This multimedia site will feature interactive web tools to elicit feedback and dialogue, and include key components such as a calendar of national, regional and international initiatives related to the Year and electronic versions of all International Year promotional materials, including photographs, videos and audio and PowerPoint presentations. The website will include a portal geared towards the media, which will feature links to forest news items and a press kit with fact sheets, brochures and other informational documents related to critical forest issues. It will also function as a gateway to all International Year of Forests, 2011 websites of Member States.

(c) Official launch of the Year: The launch will take place at United Nations Headquarters during the high-level segment of the ninth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (2 and 3 February 2011), in which Heads of State and Ministers are expected to participate. The programme will include high-level panel discussions, media activities, film screenings, the issuance of the United Nations commemorative stamp series for the International Year, and other public events currently under consideration. In the note verbale of 9 April 2010, Member States from all regional groups were invited to participate at the ministerial level in the international launch events at the ninth session of the Forum. Member States were also invited to use these events as an opportunity to announce national actions in implementing the International Year of Forests, 2011.

(d) The International Year of Forests, 2011 communication strategy: The secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests is working with an advisory committee of media professionals who are supporting the secretariat's development and implementation of the communication strategy of the Year. The secretariat has been reaching out to organizations in the film, television and media industries, nature museums and other institutions that have an interest in forests.

(e) Forest spokespersons or messengers: The secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests is currently identifying individuals who can use their leadership or celebrity status to generate media attention and help to raise awareness and support for forests. These ambassadors-at-large are being sought from around the world and would be invited to travel to public events to promote the International Year of Forests, 2011 and mobilize action for forests.

(f) The International Year of Forests, 2011 United Nations stamp series: The United Nations Postal Administration is developing a United Nations commemorative stamp series for the International Year in collaboration with the United Nations Forum on Forests secretariat. The stamp series is expected to be launched during the official launch of the International Year of Forests at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The stamp series will also be issued at the United Nations Offices at Geneva and Vienna.

(g) Art, film and photo competitions: The secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests plans to organize virtual (online) events to recognize individuals who use art, photography, film and short videos to communicate their views and celebrate forests for people. The secretariat is currently working with museums, environmental filmmakers, media representatives and the forest networks to develop a major worldwide competition to attract art, film and photographs that capture the "Forests for People" theme of the International Year of Forests, 2011.

(h) Public service announcements and short promotional films: The United Nations Forum on Forests secretariat plans to produce 3 to 5 minute films and public service announcements for distribution worldwide in different languages for use on television and other innovative distribution channels, including pro bono shows in theatres to convey inspiring messages of action for forests.

(i) Exhibits and banners: Using the stories, art and photos collected as part of the International Year of Forests, 2011 activities, the United Nations Forum on Forests secretariat plans to create exhibits and banner displays which would feature vignettes of people's actions for sustainable forest management around the world and embodying the theme of "Forests in Your Everyday Life".

(j) The International Year of Forests, 2011 Film Festival: Working with well-established environmental film festivals, the United Nations Forum on Forests secretariat will promote film screenings focused on the International Year theme of "Forests for People". This would include screenings at United Nations facilities and various locations.

(k) Forest biodiversity: The United Nations Forum on Forests secretariat is working in close collaboration with the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity to explore areas of synergy between the International Year of Biodiversity in 2010 and the International Year of Forests. Activities include, inter alia, the organization of a "bridging event" as part of the closing ceremony of the International Year of Biodiversity in December 2010 in Kanazawa, Ishikawa Prefecture, Japan, and development of informational materials on forest biodiversity that will showcase the deep interlinkages between forests and biodiversity. Other communication activities are under discussion to build on the successes of the International Year of Biodiversity in 2010, and to carry the momentum forward into the International Year of Forests in 2011.

(l) Wetlands and forests: The Ramsar Convention selected "Wetlands and Forests" as the theme for World Wetlands Day, 2011 in recognition of the International Year of Forests. The United Nations Forum on Forests secretariat is currently working in collaboration with the Ramsar Convention secretariat on the production of a World Wetlands Day, 2011 leaflet on wetlands and forests.

III. National and regional events

5. While the Year will be a global event, a large number of activities to celebrate the International Year will take place at the national and regional levels. National committees and International Year of Forests focal points have the responsibility for coordinating and publicizing country-level celebrations and communicating these plans and results to the United Nations Forum on Forests secretariat.

Meetings/conferences/ceremonies

6. The Secretariat has been notified of the following meetings, conferences and ceremonies to celebrate the International Year of Forests, 2011:

- Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) plans to convene the Second Forest Ministerial Meeting for ASEAN and China in 2011 as well as a senior forest official meeting for ASEAN and China on regional policy dialogue
- Brazil plans to organize an International Congress on Cities and Forests in Manaus, Amazonas, in 2011
- Bulgaria plans to celebrate the traditional professional holiday of foresters in April 2011
- The Communauté des Etats Sahélo-Sahariens is planning meetings in 2011 on combating desertification and safeguarding forest resources, including the first meeting of the steering committee of the Great Green Wall Initiative
- The Czech Republic will celebrate Forest Days in 2011
- Cyprus is organizing a meeting on "COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology) Action FP0701, Post-Fire Forest Management in Southern Europe" in 2011 and a conference on the holistic management of forest ecosystems in Cyprus
- El Salvador plans to hold a forestry fair in 2011 with a focus on development
- ENO (Environment Online), a global virtual school and network for sustainable development in Finland, plans to organize a global forest conference for children in September 2011 in Joensuu, Finland
- Ethiopia is planning an International Year of Forests launch event with participation of government and non-governmental stakeholders, including research and higher education institutions
- The European Union Forest Directors-General meeting is expected to be held in Poland in November 2011
- The European State Forest Association (EUSTAFOR) plans to organize its twelfth meeting in 2011
- Germany's Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection plans to launch a national awareness campaign to create publicity and awareness for the Year and forest-related issues during the International Green Week in Berlin (21-30 January 2011)
- Guatemala plans to organize its ninth National Forestry Congress in 2011

- Japan is organizing a ceremony to bridge the closing of the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity to the 2011 International Year of Forests. The ceremony will be organized as part of the closing event of the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity in Ishikawa Prefecture, Japan, in December 2010. Japan also intends to organize an international conference in February or March 2011 which will mark the launch of the International Year of Forests in Japan

- The tenth Pacific Heads of Forestry meeting will be held in 2011, to review past and present implementation of forestry activities in the Pacific

- Poland will launch the International Year of Forests in Poland in conjunction with a seminar on "Polish Forests and Forestry against the Background of Forests in Europe and the World", with participation of experts from the scientific community and a media press conference. The key message of the event will be that while forests are decreasing globally, they are increasing in Europe and Poland because of sustainable management

- The Republic of Korea will host a commemorative ceremony for the International Year of Forests which will feature forestry achievement awards, unveiling of a merit tower in commemoration of the Year, and relevant campaigns. The Republic of Korea will also organize an international symposium on forest roles, and policies of climate change and forestry as well as workshops, seminars, conferences and panel discussions to highlight the multiple roles of forests for society

- The Sixth Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe will be convened in Oslo from 14 to 16 June 2011. High on the agenda will be the elaboration of a strengthened policy framework for sustainable forest management throughout Europe

- The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) will be playing a key role in a regional conference on forests in Kinshasa being organized by the Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Tourism of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which will raise awareness about the International Year of Forests. The conference is expected to be held in late November/early December 2010. UNESCO will be involved in the conference through the Regional Post-graduate Training School on Integrated Management of Tropical Forests and Lands

7. In addition to the events listed above, a number of Member States and organizations have indicated their intent to hold other communication and outreach activities including:

(a) Competitions: ranging from photo, art, slogan, and essay writing competitions to sports and athletic competitions in forests. Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Georgia, Jamaica, Lebanon, Poland and the Republic of Korea have indicated their plans to organize competitions as part of their International Year of Forests, 2011 activities;

(b) Exhibitions: to draw attention to critical forest issues, ranging from deforestation and forest degradation to the protective functions of forests, are planned, using photography and other visual media to communicate the messages. Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Georgia, Jamaica, Poland and Romania have

indicated their plans to organize exhibitions as part of their International Year of Forests, 2011 activities;

(c) Tree planting: including distribution of seedlings, and providing post-planting information and guidelines are planned as awareness-raising activities to highlight the important role of afforestation and restoration in sustainable forest management activities. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ethiopia, Georgia, Jamaica, Lebanon and Poland, and non-governmental organizations including ENO (Environment Online), have indicated their plans to organize tree plantings as part of their International Year of Forests, 2011 activities. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea has specifically indicated plans to plant over 1 billion trees throughout the country during 2011;

(d) Field trips: to forest-protected areas. National parks can play an important role in raising awareness of the general public, youth, journalists and politicians of the importance of forest resources and the factors that threaten national forests. Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Lebanon and Romania have indicated their plans to organize field trips as part of their International Year of Forests, 2011 activities;

(e) Publications: informational materials, including books, brochures, calendars, educational materials, leaflets, pamphlets and posters, are a tried and tested means of communication and outreach. Cyprus, the Czech Republic, El Salvador, Georgia, Jamaica, Morocco, Poland and Romania, as well as ENO (Environment Online), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the secretariat of the Pacific Community have indicated their plans to produce publications as part of their International Year of Forests, 2011 activities;

(f) Other awareness-raising activities: Croatia, Lebanon and Portugal have indicated their plans to organize activities to promote awareness of the role of forests and to foster exchange of practical strategies for promoting sustainable forest management as part of their International Year of Forests, 2011 activities.

IV. Recommendations

8. **Recognizing the need to promote sustainable management of all types of forests at all levels, the General Assembly may wish to consider the following recommendations:**

(a) **Further encourage Member States to promote awareness of challenges and success stories related to implementing sustainable forest management at the national level, including as a means of promoting North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation;**

(b) **Renew its invitation to Member States to establish national coordinating committees or designate focal points to promote and coordinate activities and initiatives related to the International Year of Forests, 2011 at the local and national levels;**

(c) **Further encourage Governments, relevant regional and international organizations and major groups to support activities related to the Year, inter alia, through voluntary contributions, and to link their relevant activities to the Year;**

(d) **Encourage all relevant organs of the United Nations, including functional commissions and regional commissions, as well as United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, to fully support, contribute to and participate in the activities envisaged for the observance of 2011 as the International Year of Forests;**

(e) **Further encourage creation of voluntary partnerships among Member States, international organizations and major groups organizations to facilitate and promote activities related to the Year at the local and national levels;**

(f) **Promote observance of the Year not as an isolated event but as part of a continuing process of advocacy and partnership to foster greater awareness and action towards sustainable forest management at all levels;**

(g) **Include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-sixth session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "International Year of Forests, 2011";**

(h) **Convene a special one-day high-level event of the General Assembly sixty-sixth session in September 2011, with the participation of Heads of State and Government, to generate public awareness and political action towards sustainable forest management.**

Annex I

International Year of Forests, 2011 logo in all official United Nations languages

Annex II

International Year of Forests, 2011 logo use guidelines

Logo use guidelines

I. Design of the logo

1. The International Year of Forests, 2011 (Forests 2011) logo is designed to convey the theme of "Forests for People", celebrating the central role of people in the sustainable management, conservation and sustainable development of our world's forests. The iconographic elements in the design depict some of the multiple values of forests and the need for a 360-degree perspective: forests provide shelter to people and habitat to biodiversity; are a source of food, medicine and clean water; and play a vital role in maintaining a stable global climate and environment. All of these elements taken together reinforce the message that forests are vital to the survival and well-being of people everywhere, all 7 billion of us.

II. Translation of the logo

2. The International Year of Forests, 2011 (Forests 2011) logo will be available in the six official United Nations languages: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

3. Member States are encouraged to translate the text "International Year of Forests, 2011" into local languages and send the translated text only in EPS (graphic) file format via e-mail to the United Nations Forum on Forests secretariat at forests@un.org.

4. United Nations entities and other organizations using the logo during events or activities organized for the International Year of Forests may use the Forests 2011 logo in conjunction with their organizational logo.

III. Uses of the logo

A. Use of the logo by entities of the United Nations system

5. Entities of the United Nations system may use the International Year of Forests logo without obtaining prior approval from the United Nations Forum on Forests secretariat. However, for reporting purposes, the United Nations Forum on Forests secretariat should be informed of events and informational materials for which the logo is used. The logo may also be used for publications that the United Nations may produce with or without external partners in connection with Forests 2011, including, inter alia, posters, brochures, books, videos, flash and PowerPoint presentations, banners, illustrations and animations.

B. Use of the logo by non-United Nations entities

6. The International Year of Forests logo is primarily intended for three kinds of promotional use: information, fund-raising and use by a commercial entity. Parties outside the United Nations system may use the logo after obtaining approval from the United Nations Forum on Forests secretariat in accordance with the requirements outlined below:

1. Information uses of the logo

7. Information uses of the logo are those which are:

(a) Primarily illustrative;

(b) Not intended to raise funds;

(c) Not carried out by a commercial entity.

8. All entities interested in using the International Year of Forests logo for information purposes must apply to the United Nations Forum on Forests secretariat. When requesting approval, the entities should provide:

(a) A short statement of identity (nature of organization and its objectives);

(b) An explanation of how and where the logo will be used;

(c) A waiver of liability (see annex III) must be signed by the entity requesting to use the logo.

2. Fund-raising uses of the logo

9. Fund-raising uses of the logo are those intended to raise resources to cover costs of International Year of Forests activities organized in 2011. Fund-raising uses of the logo may be undertaken only by non-commercial entities. All entities interested in using the International Year of Forests logo for fund-raising purposes must apply for approval to the United Nations Forum on Forests secretariat. When requesting permission to use the logo for fund-raising purposes, the entities must provide:

(a) A short statement of identity (membership, objectives, etc.);

(b) An explanation of how and where the logo will be used;

(c) An explanation of how the fund-raising will take place;

(d) A summary budget;

(e) An explanation of how proceeds would be allocated to cover costs of International Year of Forests activities;

(f) A waiver of liability (see annex III) must be signed by the entity requesting to use the logo.

3. Uses of the logo by commercial entities

10. The uses of the logo by commercial entities are all those undertaken by or involving commercial entities, as well as any use intended to lead to commercial or personal profit. All commercial entities interested in using the International Year of

Forests logo must apply for approval to the United Nations Forum on Forests secretariat. When requesting permission to use the logo, the commercial entities must provide:

(a) A short statement of identity (nature of company or enterprise);

(b) An explanation of how and where the logo will be used;

(c) The names of countries/territories where the logo will be used;

(d) The nature of products/services that the entity produces/sells in those areas;

(e) How the products relate to the messages of the International Year of Forests;

(f) What profits the entity is expected to make from the use of the logo;

(g) A summary budget, providing expenses and any proposed royalties or contributions the entity is expected to make to local, national or international activities for the preparations for the International Year of Forests in 2011 or in favour of implementation of the activities of the International Year of Forests in 2011.

11. Before the logo is used by a commercial entity, a contract must be signed with the United Nations Forum on Forests secretariat. In particular, such contracts must include provisions concerning the waiver of liability (see annex III). Such contracts must also provide the detailed terms and conditions concerning the use of the logo, including the details of the information enumerated above. Additionally, such contracts must contain the United Nations General Conditions of Contract.

4. Length of use of the logo

12. The International Year of Forests logo will be used for a period of two years from July 2010 until June 2012. That period includes the preparation phase in 2010 for the International Year of Forests, the celebrations of the International Year of Forests in 2011, and any subsequent reporting in 2012.

13. The International Year of Forests logo is primarily intended for promotional use, including, inter alia, websites, posters, brochures, books, videos, flash and PowerPoint presentations, banners, illustrations and animations. The logo may be used beyond June 2012 in reference to publications about the International Year of Forests.

IV. Liability

14. All entities authorized to use the International Year of Forests, 2011 logo for the purposes specified herein must agree to the following provisions on waiver of liability:

(a) The entity is responsible for ensuring that the activities are carried out in accordance with the applicable law and for ensuring that the appropriate insurance is maintained to cover the risks arising out of such activities;

(b) The United Nations does not assume any responsibility for the activities of the undersigned;

(c) The entity shall hold harmless and defend the United Nations and its officials against any action that may be brought against the United Nations or its officials as a result of the use of the logo.

15. When the logo is used for information and fund-raising purposes, the waiver of liability form must be signed by the entity. When the logo is used by a commercial entity, the above provisions on waiver of liability must be incorporated into a contract to be signed by the entity. All duly signed waiver of liability forms and contracts must be received by the United Nations Forum on Forests secretariat before the proposed activities are carried out.

V. Inquiries

16. Please send inquiries to:

United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat
Attention: International Year of Forests, 2011 Team
Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)
1 United Nations Plaza, DC 1 — 1245,
New York, NY 10017, USA

Fax: +1 917 367 3186
E-mail: forests@un.org

Annex III

Waiver of liability for use of the logo of "International Year of Forests, 2011"

The undersigned acknowledges that, in using the logo for the International Year of Forests as explained in its submission dated _____ to the United Nations Forum on Forests secretariat:

(a) The undersigned is responsible for ensuring that the activities are carried out in accordance with the applicable law and for ensuring that the appropriate insurance is maintained to cover the risks arising out of such activities;

(b) The United Nations does not assume any responsibility for the activities of the undersigned;

(c) The entity shall hold harmless and defend the United Nations and its officials against any action that may be brought against the United Nations or its officials as a result of the use of the logo.

Signed

_____

Full name (block letters)

_____

Affiliation (block letters)

_____

Name of organization

_____

E-mail

_____

Date

_____

Please send the signed waiver form to:

United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat
Attention: International Year of Forests, 2011 Team
Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)
1 United Nations Plaza, DC 1 — 1245,
New York, NY 10017, USA

Fax: +1 917 367 3186
E-mail: forests@un.org